



Friends of Firs Farm

General Meeting: 17th January 2019

Held at Winchmore School from 730pm to 9pm

The meeting was opened by the chair welcoming everyone and reminding all that these meetings are,
'An opportunity to discuss all things Firs Farm and to have your say'.

1. Previous Minutes from the Autumn General meeting in October 2018 were agreed.

2. Environmental stuff

2.1. Pollution in our Wetlands

Over the last few weeks, Thames water and the Environment Agency have been seen working on a pollution incident in the Firs Farm Wetlands. The pollution has been caused by mis-connections and a blockage about 2 miles from the Wetlands.

The blockage has been resolved and 'Protection Booms' have been inserted to stop the spread of pollution. Some of the pollution is being removed by tankers and as water testing shows low oxygen levels, the wetlands waters are being aerated to ensure no loss of wildlife and vegetation. Thanks to all the agencies for their hard work and fast response following a call to their hotline number.

If you spot a pollution incident, report it via the hotline number which is in today's handout sheet (copy attached) and also on the notice boards in Firs Farm. Here it is again:

Pollution hotline number is 0800 80 70 60

A number of you have asked about pollution incidents as they can cause problems in our wetlands, and what happens in the event of misconnections. The Watercourses Engineer from Enfield has provided some useful information which is attached in a separate document.

2.2. Eco club

Due to popular demand, the Friends are working on bringing back the Eco club in Firs Farm. Some of the Friends are meeting next month to ascertain volunteers and how to raise funds to support this.

The aims of the club are to have fun, inspire young people to be involved in open air projects, learn about the environment and get dirty!

3. Transformation update

3.1. Tennis Courts

These are now available to book on <http://cspark.at/firsf>

See aside a copy of the advert in the Enfield Independent making people aware of the opportunity to operate, manage and maintain the new courts. The deadline is 5:00pm on Friday 1 February!

Contact: tim.harrison@enfield.gov.uk for further information.

3.2. Path Lighting – this lighting project can be seen alongside the path which travels from the Firs Lane car park to the A10 entrance and is nearly finished. The project has been well received as it improves safety.

3.3. Table Tennis

These are proving to be very popular. Yes... even in the autumn / winter months, and there is no need to book.

3.4. Paths in Firs Farm? Question received from member of the public: 'When is the path going to join through the gate to the cemetery?'

This was raised with the council during a walkabout 19th April 2017. We will raise this again with the council at the next opportunity

The London Borough of Enfield

**Opportunity to manage, operate and
maintain four floodlit tennis courts
at Firs Farm Recreation Ground,
Firs Lane, N21 2PJ**

Enfield Council is seeking bids from interested partners to manage, operate and maintain four recently constructed floodlit tennis courts at Firs Farm Recreation Ground for a period of ten years.

**The deadline for tender submissions
is 5:00pm on Friday 1 February 2019**

For further information, an informal discussion and to request relevant tender documents; a specification, management agreement and lease, please contact Tim Harrison at tim.harrison@enfield.gov.uk

www.enfield.gov.uk



4. Events

- 4.1. FoFF Christmas Social 2018** – Festive cheer event at which we celebrated our achievements and our volunteer of the year 2018 “Stewart Griffin”. Thanks to all that attended a good time was had by all. Why not be a part of this for 2019 by joining the Friends Volunteers? A good resolution for 2019!
- 4.2. Halloween 31st October** – we only ask for donations and we raised £580 from last year’s event. Thank you for supporting us again on this event. Please put this in the calendar for 2019.
- 4.3. World Wetlands day 2nd Feb 2019** from 11am-3pm when you will see the Wetlands have tours, nature trails and scavenger hunts – any volunteers please contact Friends – FREE event for all
- 4.4. FOFF quiz evening 5th April 2019** – put this date in your diaries now please. To book your table of 8 contact the Friends for more details. Limited space so book early!
- 4.5. National Children’s day Sunday 12th May 2019** - FREE fun for all the family so please support as per last year

PLEASE NOTE: We need volunteers to help with the above but also please come along and join in. There will be no festival in 2019.

5. Charity / Committee Update

We still have a few spaces for new trustee / committee members to join us. Please get in touch to request an application form or ask any questions. We also need help with fund raising and help with running some of our events.

6. Finance Update

No significant changes in the last 1/4er. The last event was 31st October for the Halloween

6.1. All payments have now been made for the 2018 festival

6.2. Coop project –the public can vote instore for a changing places toilet for FoFF – PLEASE VOTE!

The Friends finance team are preparing for the April AGM and first years reports as a registered Charity.

7. AOB.

7.1. Welcome board map issue –This is now being looked into with the council

7.2. Notice board by the Cycle path A10 end – Glass shattered. This has been raised with Enfield council and we are waiting for an update on when this will be replaced to prevent the ‘Flyposting’.

7.3. Tree Planting - More than 50 trees were planted in the autumn. Well done to John Prior and all who helped (little known fact that the borough has one of the highest %’s of greenery across London at 40%).

7.4. Newsletter - sent out periodically but we want to know what you would like to see in these?

7.5. Volunteering Hours to date 2018-19 the total V hours are in excess of 2000.

7.6. Accolades The Ann Tott memorial cup and Enfield in Bloom(EIB) Gold award were picked up at the EIB awards night in November by the Friends volunteers.

7.7. Volunteer hours - over 2000 hours were recorded in just 6 months by our volunteers.

PLEASE NOTE – AGM is on Wednesday 24th April, at Winchmore school and starts at 7.30pm All welcome!